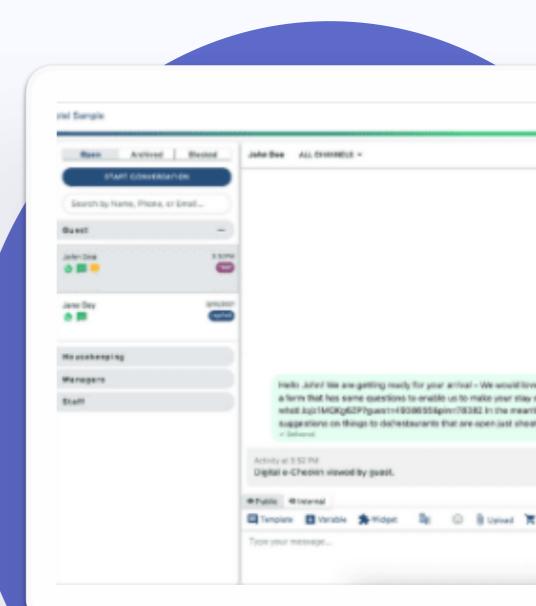


# The Ultimate Guide to Guest Messaging Software

**2022 EDITION** 







## What is Guest Messaging Software?





Guest Messaging Software (GMS) is a software platform that enables hotels to engage with their guests through various messaging channels in real-time. The GMS allows hotels to send transactional messages, reply to guests, and manage guest requests. With an aggregate messaging platform, hotels can increase guest engagement, boost customer service scores, and receive key insights to guests' sentiment.

#### What's inside this buying guide?

- Introduction
- Key Benefits
- Trends & Developments
- Key Features
- Critical Integrations

- Pricing & Implementation
- Questions to Ask Vendors
- ► ROI Calculator
- Curated Resources

Compare Whistle vs **Monscierge Guest** Messaging vs EasyWay Want to easily compare Whistle Monscierge Guest Messaging features of top guest messaging software Integrations products side by side? Mobile Friendly Launch Comparison → Photo Sharing Chatbot Whatsapp Integration



## **Guest Messaging Software Benefits and Business Value**

#### What it does



### **Improved Team Communication**

Messaging doesn't have to be only for your guests. Keep in touch with your team, dispatch tasks, or post daily bulletins all with team messaging. A reduction in overall call and radio volume, plus the ability to reply to multiple guests at once creates greater efficiency. 2

### Increase Operational Insight

Your guests are communicating key information about your hotel all day long. Messaging is able to capture and relay this information back to you, along with sentiment and other analyses applied to it.

3

### **Boost Guest Engagement** and Satisfaction

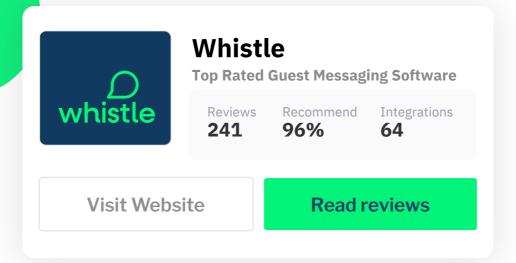
Fill the customer service whitespace with messaging, and communicate with guests who would have otherwise avoided your staff. Proactively engage with guests to promote customer service and enhance their experience, resulting in improved scores.

70% of travelers prefer to communicate with hotels via digital channels

#### How it adds value

- Increase Guest Service Scores. Companies that use messaging achieve 2.9x greater annual increase in Net Promoter Scores (NPS) Compared to all others (12.3% vs. 4.3%)\*. More specifically GMPs increase service recovery opportunities which leads to higher guest satisfaction.
- **Reach More Guests.** Messaging allows hoteliers to serve more guests per hour than any other medium (in person, phone, email, live chat). Hotels will also reach more guests overall via messaging than any other channel.
- **Bolster Operational Efficiency.** Categorize Service Requests and Work Orders from guests, and automatically dispatch and track the tasks. Coordinating between departments becomes a breeze.

Special thanks to our sponsor for making this guide possible



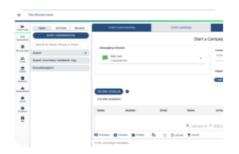
#### **Products**

Check out more products in the Whistle product suite



#### MESSAGING

Reach your guests anytime, anywhere



#### **UPSELL**

Drive more ancillary revenue from your guests



#### **LIVE CHAT**

Convert website visitors into guests

#### **FEATURED REVIEW**

"Our team loves Whistle. The program is easy to use and the automation gives us peace of mind. While we are short on team members it makes life easier and communication with our guests a breeze. Our guests comment all the time how much they appreciate the constant communication touches through out their stay. Whistle is a win-win. We love the templates, automation, and the key words for guest complaints."



## **Trends & Future Predictions for Guest Messaging Software**

Brought to you by





#### **№ 2021-22 Trends**

**Contactless Workflows.** Both Hotels and Guests will come to rely on messaging as a means to keep in touch through a contactless means. New functionality will begin to emerge to fulfill more guests' needs and expectations. The ability to for the entire guest journey to be fulfilled via messaging.

Partner Delivery. More software vendors will need to rely on messaging software to deliver important content through the guest's stay. There will be increasing demand to integrate with messaging providers. Messaging Software providers will serve as the delivery mechanism for hundreds of third party vendors.

**Highly Personalized Touch Points.** As the hospitality industry shifts rapidly, the ability to meet every unique need is paramount. Messaging providers will provide highly segmented experiences to guests based on their previous preferences, and current needs, adaptively.

Mid-Stay Reviews. The edges of communication have been stretched into new and exciting directions and modern travelers need to feel heard and valued. A post-stay survey, as useful and insightful as it still is, is also restricted in this time and age. There really is no better time than the present because your guests expect and need real-time engagement during these uncertain times. Traveling post-COVID is bound to generate a number of risks, concerns, and questions that guests need to be able to address to someone who is able to clarify matters and solve issues. Not later, but right now. Urgency is key in the 21st century and now more than ever, it's crucial to make yourself available at all times, in order to ensure safety and trust.





## Key features to look for when choosing a guest messaging software solution

Multi-Channel Guest Messaging

Allowing guests to communicate via their preferred channel (e.g. SMS, Messenger, WhatsApp, Email, and more.)

Team Messaging & Task Dispatching

Streamline internal communications via messaging and eliminate the need for radios. Automatically create and dispatch service requests and work orders that can be tracked via an integrated task management system or right within the guest messaging platform.

- Automated Messaging (Automated Outreach, Automated Replies, & Chatbots)

  Reduce workload of hotel agents, and provide a better experience for the guest.
- 4 Analytics & Reporting

  Text and sentiment analysis & reports for operators.
- 5 Integrations

Connect with your existing systems to sync and organize your data.

Sentiment analysis

Ability to identify trends over time and get alerts when topics are sensed via automated data mining of conversions.

Message templates

Ability to create a library of response templates for commonly asked questions to save time.

Notifications & escalation procedures

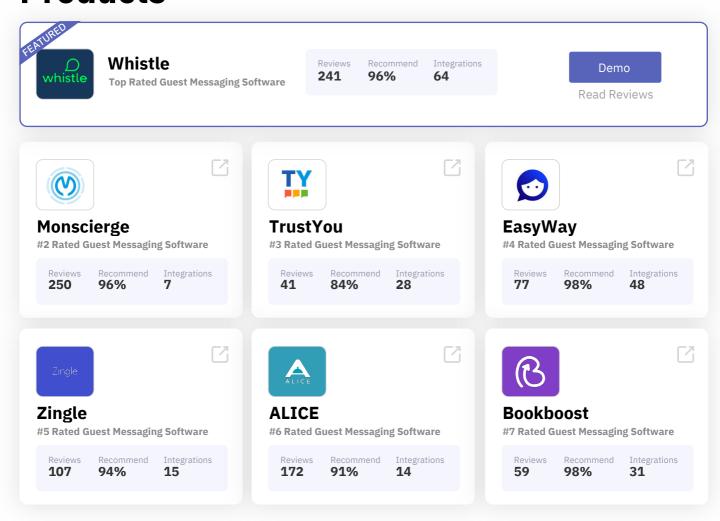
Ability to setup notifications and alerts based on response times and followup to ensure ticket prioritization and eliminate dropped requests.

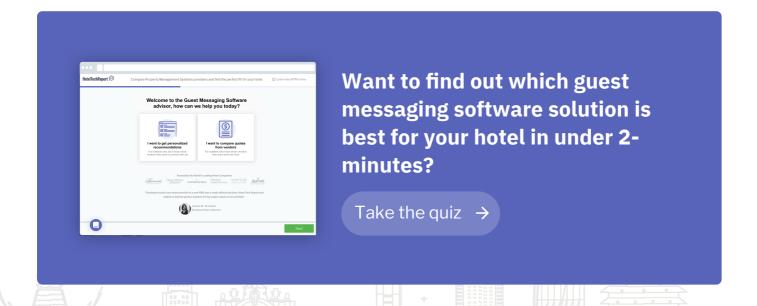
Upselling & Payments Functionality

Allow guests to purchase items (e.g. massage, late checkout, F&B), without leaving messaging.



## **Top Rated Guest Messaging Software Products**







### What hoteliers are saying about their guest messaging software providers



Review of Whistle



#### General Manager from Boutique in Narrabundah

"Guest messaging works really well as a means of communicating prior to and during a guest stay. It's a fast, simple way of asking a quick question (we prefer the sms option) and having the guest reply."

#### \* \* \* \* \*

#### asy interface, guest's appreciate

his service offers a suitable need for uests to communicate Different

Concierge Boutique in Bozeman

#### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$

#### **Great Product**

What a game changer. We have had a huge increase in sales of our extras.

Office Manager Vacation Rental in Big Bear

#### $\star$ $\star$ $\star$ $\star$

#### **Good experience**

Better comunication wi guests. Know about ou

Operations Manager Boutique in San Migue

#### s to communicate

nd housekeeping k orders. One

to GM Sarajevo

#### $|\star|\star|\star|\star|\star$

#### Whistle Review: Wonderful Experience

We are a Holiday Inn Express and we use whistle to send them a Hello before

General Manager Limited Service in Kansas City

#### $\star$

#### Good consolidation of most of our

Allowing us to consolidate guest messaging across all platforms, mobile

Director Boutique in Tanzania

Read more reviews on www.hoteltechreport.com



#### HotelTechReport 🗀

## **Pointers from industry experts**

### David Berger CEO, Volara

"Whistle provides an awesome guest messaging software that enables hotel staff to manage guest communications seamlessly and efficiently. We've worked with lots of Whistle client hotels over the years and they're always raving about their experience with the Whistle team and product."





**Global Head of Partners (Hospitality), Amazon Web Services** 

"At the heart of Whistle's offering is a unique combination of understanding the individual needs of a guest and the ability to drive relevant actions. It is a bar raising example in how to bring the concept of "markets-of-one" in hospitality to life - with a solution that is feature rich yet simple to use. What stands out is that Whistle also looks at the entire journey and provides a highly efficient, less invasive way to enable hotel staff to engage their guests at any point."



### **Sebastien Leitner VP of Partnerships, Cloudbeds**

"We love the guest engagement opportunities Whistle delivers Pre, Mid, Post Stay to establish that direct contactless communication with your guests. Furthermore our integration is flawless: Automatic Triggers can create a messaging flow as the reservation status changes within Cloudbeds. SMS Surveys can automatically be sent."





Want to save time and money on integrations?

Learn more about hapi

### **Critical integrations**

Without the right integrations even the best product can add complexity and cost. Make sure any vendor you consider has the integrations you need to set your team up for success.



- PMS. Provide an elevated experience through automated and transactional messaging events. Ensure consistency and reduce the work your agents have to do when it comes to being proactive. Have all of the guest's information readily available.
- **Door Locks / Digital Keys.** Send door codes directly to your guests through automated messaging, when their room is ready!
- > Staff Task Management. Guest messaging and guest requests come full-circle. Automated dispatching eliminates any potential error and ensures efficiency.
- **Booking Engine.** Ensure your website visitors can book directly when engaging with your GMS' Live Chat widget.



## What questions should smart buyers ask vendors?

#### **#1** What integrations do you offer?

Integrations significantly boost the user and guest experience while keeping data clean and mitigating dropped requests and glitches.

#### **#2** Can you schedule and automate messages?

Scheduling and automating certain messages or transactional events ensures precision a enhances the guest experience.

### #3 Am I able drill into what my guests are saying? (e.g. identify unhappy guests)

Real-time analytics and reporting show you what your guests are saying. Sentiment analysis and Surveys should provide real-time insight to positivity/negativity.

#### #4 Which mobile messaging and chat channels are supported?

The more channels the GMS provides, the more chats your hotel can have in aggregate (e.g. SMS, Email, Live Chat, Messenger, & more). That being said, the channels your hotel needs are dependent on your guests and your country.

#### What success metrics (KPIs) should you focus on?

- ▶ **TripAdvisor reviews.** Utilizing a GMS' TripAdvisor integrations means a significant increase the volume of positive TripAdvisor reviews. SMS has a 90% read-rate within 3-minutes. For prospective guests, the two most important metrics are recency (42%) and quantity (30%) of reviews. A hotel ranked #1 on TripAdvisor earns 56% more direct bookings each month compared to hotels ranked 40th in their respective city.
- ▶ **Guest service scores.** Elevate the experience throughout the entire guest journey, pre-booking, before, during, and post-stay. Use SMS Surveys to gauge guest satisfaction and address any concerns. Hotels see up to a 14% increase in service scores within the first 3 months. On average, 3% of Survey Responses will result in service recovery opportunities for the hotel.
- ▶ Employee productivity. Increased productivity from streamlined operations (e.g. decreased call volume, multitasking conversations, quicker task dispatching, and more). Save time and money by ditching radios. Lower call volume during peak hours. Answer multiple inquiries at once.

## **Pricing & implementation guidance**



#### **PRICING**

What are the typical pricing models and ranges that I should budget for?

- Implementation Expense. One time upfront setup, implementation and training cost.
- Monthly Saas Subscription. Monthly service fees range depending on the vendor, your chainscale, and the tier or package your hotels purchases.

#### **MPLEMENTATION**

What does the typical implementation timeline and process look like to go live?

stress-free experience. As a cloud-based program with no software to download, training can be completed in as little as 30 minutes. The interface and design should be simple, interactive, and appealing to staff. The best companies offer free trials to allow hoteliers to experience product quality prior to purchase. With messaging, your strategy needs to be (i) consistent use (ii) analytical review (iii) adjust approach & improve guest experience. The more you utilize messaging, the more ROI for your operations and hotel. No matter how good or bad the messaging platform is, if your team is not hands on with it your hotel will not benefit.



### Furthering Reading & Success Stories

Read real stories from hoteliers like you about how they leveraged guest messaging software to grow their business.

#### **SUCCESS STORIES**



Whistle Improves
Productivity at Sofitel
Sydney Darling Harbor



Lark Hotels Delivers
Modern Touchless
Experiences with Whistle



Four Sisters Inns Elevates the Guest Experience with Messaging



Khana Hotel Group Delivers Consitent Experiences with Whistle

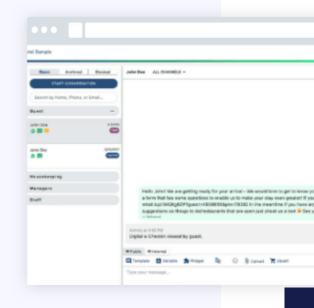
#### **FURTHER READING**

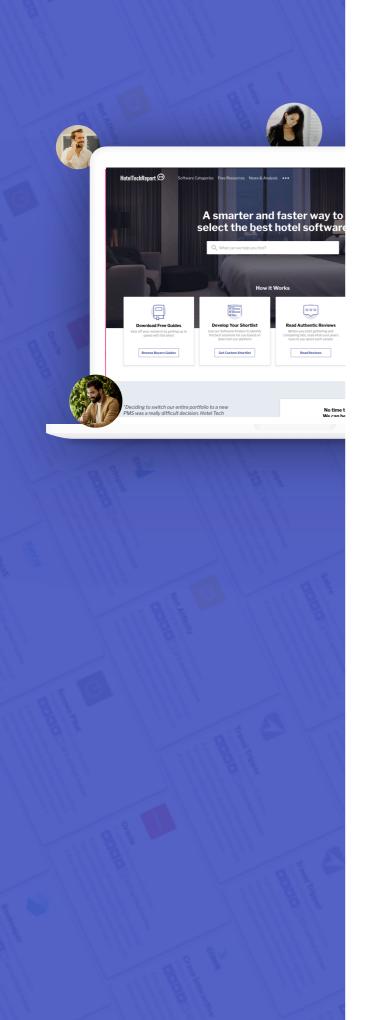
- Easy Ways to Boost Sales with Upselling and Cross-Selling in hospitality
- Hotel Operations: 5 Practical Ways to Improve in 2020
- Hotel Technology: 8 Trends to Watch in 2020
- 5 Ways to Boost Revenue with Suggestive Selling

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Travelers, more than ever before, are demanding contactless experiences. NOW is the time to bring Whistle to your hotel. Whistle's revolutionary contactless hospitality software is rated #1 by HotelTechReport and trusted by 10,000+ hoteliers worldwide. Whistle easy-to-use dashboard drives more bookings, digitizes check-in, enhances guest experiences, improves service scores, boosts positive reviews, streamlines operations, and integrates with 50+ property management systems.





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Each month 145,000+ hoteliers across 150+ countries research and discover new ways to leverage technology to drive revenue, increase operational efficiency and improve the guest experience.

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